



Ali Rumney praises her dog Demi during a road dog trials.

It's a working dog's life

SARA WALKER discovers how some British dog owners are keeping alive the traditional working culture of foreign breeds.

Despite modern lifestyle changes, traditional working dogs such as spaniels and collies are still a familiar sight in the British countryside. Careful breeding has produced the right physical characteristics and temperaments for specific jobs and these dogs have been working in the same way for centuries, helping owners to manage their land and stock.

In the same way that Britain has its heritage of gun dogs and herding dogs, other cultures have their own traditional breeds, refined and adapted for a particular task. Some British owners with more unusual dogs are now keeping that heritage alive by working them in the traditional way for the breed.